Upsurge in Working Class Struggle Amid Rising Opportunism and Reaction

The Alignment of Class Forces in 1977

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The history of the class struggle in 1977 reveals many fundamental historical developments which will effect the alignment of class forces in the world for many years to come This was an extremely important year, one rich with lessons for the working class and oppressed people of the world But it was also a very complex year, one that defies superficial analysis To wage the class struggle correctly now and in the future, requires that we correctly evaluate the many twists and turns in the life and death struggle between the socialist and imperialist camps

In the world today, the conditions of the imperialist system reflect the reality that new democratic and socialist revolution is the order of the day But the world revolution is not a simple series of victories It is made country by country, under varying conditions, with both advances and defeats, ebbs and flows

Not in a long time have we seen such an upsurge of the workers movement, under direct communist leadership, as emerged in Europe in 1977 In countries such as Eritrea, great progress was made in waging the national liberation and new democratic revolution There have been many important advances in the consciousness and concrete unity of the international workers and communist movement

At the same time, all has not gone well Within the imperialist camp, the rivalry between the US and USSR led to very large increases in arms production and intensified preparation for imperialist war Both superpowers used the threat of war to bring great pressure and oppression on the people of the world, pressure which cut directly through the revisionist fiction of "detente" Both superpowers advanced militarily and economically relative to the second rank imperialist powers and other capitalist countries Both geared up for a period of unbridled expansion Moving to front stage, the fascist forces are preparing for the days ahead

In response to the maturing struggle of the proletariat and oppressed nations and people, the world imperialist system resorted to both violence and deception to try and hold back the revolutionary tide of history Increased military preparedness by the superpowers, the beefing up of NATO, the use of Cuban mercenaries in Africa, all reflect the continued reliance upon force to preserve the rule of the imperialist camp

For the socialist camp, basic and fundamental divisions emerged in 1977 which have profound significance for the years ahead Under the guise of fighting modern revisionism in the USSR., the advocates of the theory of the "three worlds" moved to adopt a policy of collaboration with US imperialism, revival of Tito, silence on the betrayal of the Palestinian people, blatant belittlement of the role of the proletariat and denial of the leading role of the socialist countries

To the dismay of people all over the world, the Communist Party of China nestled up to US imperialism, applauded Tito as a world communist leader, claimed that the "workers revolutionary movement in the developed capitalist countries cannot but remain at the stage of regrouping and accumulating strength "(Peking Review, no 45, 1977), and broke with the Marxist Leninist strategy for world revolution on a number of fundamental questions

In every country of the world, splits emerged between the genuine Marxist Leninist forces and the opportunists who sought to defend the counter revolutionary theory of the "three worlds" These splits are a sign of the advance of the class struggle but also represent profound contradictions which have temporarily weakened the socialist camp and sown confusion in the working class movement

In 1977, a series of important new world alignment of forces occurred, and the class struggle developed on many fronts in a complex and extremely sharp manner, 1977 reveals the undeniable reality that imperialism and social imperialism are being torn apart at their foundations and the conditions are being prepared for their complete and final defeat To advance this victory for the proletariat and their allies, we must pay close attention to the lessons that history provides

"We believe that there has been a tremendous upsurge in the revolutionary working class movement in this country, and around the world We believe, as we have pointed out, that we are moving from an ebb period in the class struggle, to a flow period Small skirmishes are growing into big battles More and more of the proletariat will be united, led by its political party, to wage struggle of class against class to defeat the bourgeoisie " (Political Report, Class Against Class, No 10, p 20)

The Struggle for the Well-Being of the Working Class and Proletarian Revolution

In 1977, the deep and all round crisis that has gripped the entire capitalist world continued to aggravate the contradiction between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie In all the major capitalist countries, spontaneous strike activity for wages and wildcats against working conditions increased over the levels of 1976 and previous years

These strikes occurred on all of the continents In Britain, workers in auto, steel, aviation, machine building and on the docks struck against increasing unemployment and the stabilization plans of the bourgeoisie to hold down wages behind the increase in prices In the Netherlands, for the first time since the end of World War II, workers from the major industrial sectors staged a pattern of strikes In Japan more that one million workers went out on strike in the early summer In France over ten million workers participated in a 24 hour strike This strike was the largest in France since the revolutionary struggles of 1968

An extremely important aspect of the strike activities of 1977 was their increasingly political character This was true not only in countries such as Chile and Peru where workers faced fascist repression and military juntas which entirely forbid strike activity, but in the US and Canada as well

In Canada and the US, the political upsurge came largely in response to the direct attack by the state on the striking workers At the Robin Hood Multi Foods mills in Canada, the company opened fire with shotguns, wounding eight workers

Here in the US, 1977 was a year of increasing armed struggle between the corporations and the state on one side and the striking workers on the other These battles were especially hard fought in the mining areas of Appalachia For over a year, workers at Stearns have defied court injunctions, built barricades and traded gunfire with scabs, company thugs, and police in their struggle to organize their mine When the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) went out on strike in December, the Stearns miners joined the picket lines

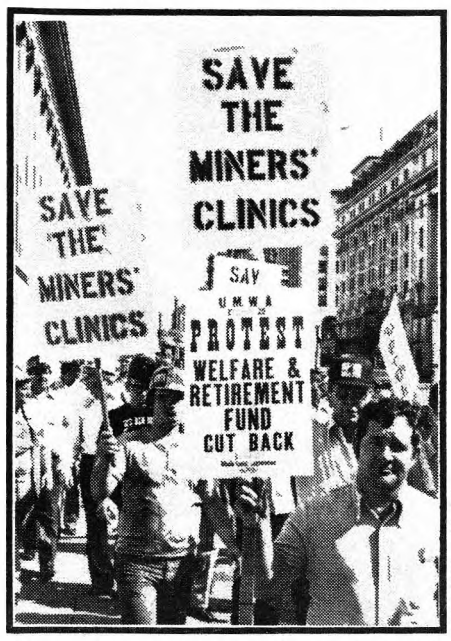
As in many earlier mining struggles, women have taken a crucial role in the Stearns strike (See "Stearns Remember the Past, Fight for the Future", in this issue of **UNITE!**) Out of the necessity of protecting themselves and their families, women in the mining regions have taken up the gun many times in the past But in 1977 at Stearns, it has become not the exception but common practice

What must come as a special shock to the bourgeoisie and the trade union bureaucrats is that this revolutionary practice is spreading to other industrial sectors and other parts of the country At the Essex plant in Elwood, Indiana, women in the United Auto Workers protected their picket line by exchanging gunfire with the state

As the workers' militancy developed, the trade union bureaucrats were further exposed as collaborators and agents of the bourgeoisie In the mines, 1977 was one long year of wildcats that Arnold Miller of the UMWA could not control When the miners were not out on the picket lines, they were protesting against the working conditions, cutting belts, and slowing down coal production The sharp rise in wildcats forced the production of coal to plummet downwards

While the distrust for Miller is all to the good, the chaos in the union has weakened the position of the miners and the whole working class It has hurt the national strike It has undercut the drive to organize miners such as those at Stearns and has meant that a significant amount of coal now comes from non union mines

In the closely related industrial sector of steel, the ground has begun to crack under the bureaucrats This includes Sadlowski, who was pushed forward as a champion of the working class

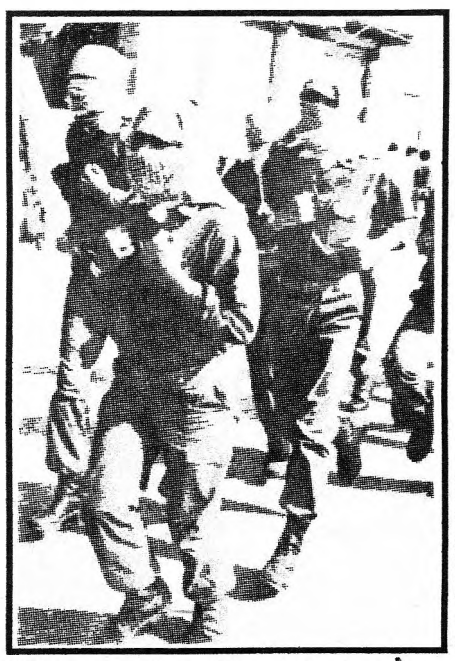


UNITE! Photo

Miners demonstrate in Washington D C against cut backs in benefits during a strike last summer

by the Communist Party USA and the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) Defeated by McBride for the USWA Presidency, Sadlowski s whole campaign has been exposed as one without substance The recent USW strike in Minnesota and Michigan pro vided an excellent chance to mobilize against the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) Despite the fact that much of the Sadlowski campaign was based on opposition to the ENA, this was not done by Sadlowski forces Instead, McBride took the strike as an opportunity to negotiate an even more restrictive ENA to bind the workers

While the increasing frequency of strikes and their militancy during 1977 was an upsurge in the class struggle, this aspect nevertheless remained es sentially at the spontaneous and, fre quently, economic level This can be seen by the strike settlements With



from PALESTINE!

Palestinian soldiers Though Arab unity in support for Palestine has been temporarily undercut by Sadat in league with U S imperialism, their struggle will triumph!

high unemployment for several years, and the prospect of more of the same, workers, in an attempt to hold their jobs, settled for much less that the demands originally put forward

This condition is to be expected in the U S, because up to this point the proletariat has not reconstituted the communist party that once led it But this is far from being a matter of needing to regroup and to serve the interests of the bourgeoisie as set out by the opportunists Momentous changes that will have their impact throughout the upcoming decades took place in the growth of strength and unity of the Marxist Leninist forces

Here in the U S where there is a sizeable labor aristocracy and privileged strata of the petty bourgeoisie which has led to a multiplicity of revisionist groups there has been a welcome and growing demarcation between Marxism Leninism and opportunism This demarc ation is not in any way on fine points of theory, but rather on the basic formu lation of the strategy and tactics of the revolution This demarcation took place in 1977 especially around the theory of the "three worlds"

Initiated by the entirely correct attack of the Seventh Party Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania on the theory of the "three worlds", Marx ist Leninists united and opportunists began splitting from Marxist Leninist Parties and from each other

Breaking courageously and completely with the line of the theory of the "three worlds" and its inevitable collaboration with the U S bourgeoisie and all of imperialism, the MLOC moved forward in 1977 to a united First Congress, a Draft Party Program and a Political Re port that laid a firm basis for party unity and proletarian leadership Faced with issues that are too hot for them to handle, such as the Party to Party recognition of the revisionist Tito by the Communist Party of China, organi zations such as the RCP and others have begun to split Others like the Commu nist Party [M L] (CP ML) have placed themselves more and more openly in collaboration with the U S bourgeoisie

In Europe, 1977 was a year not only of an extremely sharp split in Marxist Leninist forces, but also of the growing accommodation of the Eurocommunist parties – of the Berlinguers, the Carrillos, and the Marchaises – with the ruling social democratic parties While contra dictions exist,not only between the revisionists in Moscow and Eurocommu nists, but also between the Eurocommu nists and the out and out reformist social democrats, these contradictions are relative As noted in the Political Report of the MLOC, the contradictions between these counter revolutionaries and the proletariat and oppressed masses is absolute The Eurocommunists 'are trai tors to the cause of revolution and social props of the bourgeoisie' (Po litical Report, Class Against Class, Vol 10, p 9)

The bourgeoisie will use these forces, just as they used the anarchist gangs like Baader Meinhof that had individual cap italists scrambling behind their body guards What the German state did, in fact, was to use these individual terror ist acts as a pretext to attack the Commu nist Party of Germany (M L) and all the parties that say they are for the overthrow of the bourgeois state While the anarchist attacks temporarily de stabilized the German government, the bourgeoisie fully understands that it is the disciplined actions of the working class, not the actions of a few individuals, however violent, that is the real threat to their class rule

"We have seen in countries in Europe and Latin America, the rise of Marxist-Leninist parties who today stand in the very vanguard of the class struggle, parties which have already created liberated base areas, parties which today mobilize tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of workers in the class struggle "(CAC,p 8)

Starting from the true unity that is based upon Marxism Leninism, the Marx ist Leninist Parties and groups organized many international ist rallies This kind of unity was clearly impossible in the previous period, when sizeable contin gents of opportunists were able to hide themselves in the ranks of the proletariat, posturing that they were all for revolu tion The offensive achieved in 1977 by the Marxist Leninist parties and groups has again laid a firm basis for revolutionary struggle The Joint State ment of the Delegations of Latin Amer ican Parties in the fall of 1976 and the Joint Statement of the Five Euro pean Marxist Leninist Parties in Novem ber of 1977 reflected the growing unity based on principles Many of these parties have demonstrated their ability to take up and lead the working class in struggle for socialism In their ac tual practice they have demonstrated that they have already won the confi dence of the masses of people in their countries

The Struggles for National Liberation

During the past year the oppressed nations and peoples continued to press for their liberation from imperialism, social imperialism, and the reactionary collaborators that control the colonial and neo colonial regimes

In these struggles, the most signifi cant victories and prospects for victo ry were, and remain, in Africa In the spring of 1977, Djibouti achieved its independence In Eritrea, the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front (EPLF) con tinues to play its leading role and has united forces with the Eritrean Liber ation Front (ELF) to rout the reaction ary Ethiopian forces of the Mengistu regime 95% of Eritrea has been liberated On the verge of total defeat, the Mengistu regime and its Soviet and Cuban backers have been forced to greatly step up armed shipments and reinforcements of Cuban troops

By increasing the armed struggle, the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Azania have also moved towards victory Again, the U S and the U S S R both moved to subvert the struggle and set up new neo colonial regimes The U S revamped its policies in Africa and gave UN Ambassador Andrew Young the task of attempting to replace the settler white regime with moderate Blacks as the new window dressing In its customary attempt to split the the liberation movements in their respec tive nations, the U S S R continued to single out Zimabawe African Peoples' Union (ZAPU) in Zimbabwe and the African National Congress (ANC) in Azania as the only legitimate and pro gressive forces

Unlike in Angola in 1976 and in other countries where this maneuver has been successful, these attempts were frustrated through the heroic leadership of ZANU in Zimbabwe and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) in Azania

In Azania, the militant struggle ag ainst the reactionary settler regime continued to gather strength and momen tum To counter this growing resistance the reactionary regime stepped up its fascist violence as evidenced by the brutal murder of Steven Biko But the Azania peoples turned their deep sorrow into even greater determination to crush the Vorster regime

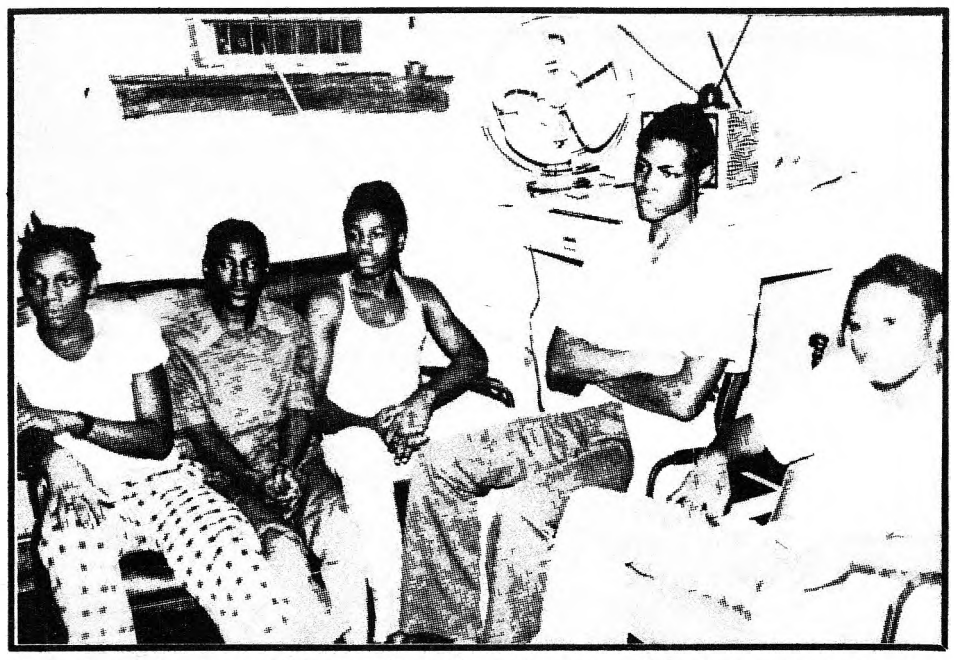
In Angola, the liberation forces began to overcome 20,000 Cuban troops and the regime of Agostinho Neto, who had quickly turned the liberation struggle of the Angolan people into an outpost for the U S S R In April, the U S S R and Cubans attempted to increase their sway even further by using the reactionary Katangese seces sionists to attack the equally reaction ary Mobutu regime of Zaire In the name of national independence, the Mobutu forces were joined by Moroccan troops supported by French planes and financed by Belgian banks The thrust into Zaire failed and the Soviet Union received universal condemnation while the role of the U S and its lackeys was also exposed

Increasingly, this contention and col lusion by the U S and U S S R has been exposed In 1977, the meetings of the Organization of African Unity took up the question of superpower inter ference in Africa However, this did not stop that interference In Somalia, where the U S S R was ousted last year, the U S moved in with a military mission and sent a U S Congressional delegation Until the U S becomes the direct arms supplier for Somalia, France and Saudi Arabia, one of U S 's client states, are playing this role

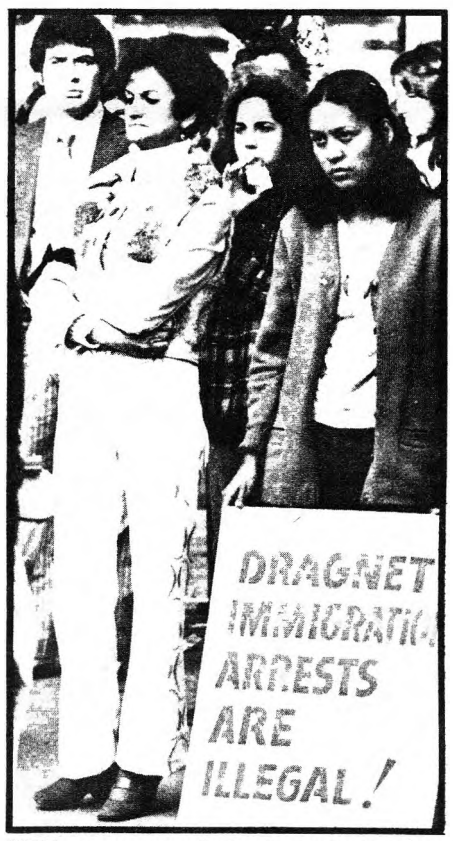
Increasingly, the true national libera tion movements had to face not only the direct attacks of the U S and the U S S R, but also the undercutting attacks from other forces who claimed to be their friends This pattern occurred in practically all countries except those in southern Africa, where no one, not even the U S, dares to support openly the out and out settler regimes In other countries, the liberation forces were attacked, discredited or at best ignored by the very forces that claimed that the "third world" was the main force of the revolution

In Zaire, support was correctly direct ed against the U S S R but incorrectly in favor of the corrupt Mobutu who owes his very existence and the Zaire national treasury to France and to Belgian and U S banks In Somalia, when the U S S R was ousted, not one word was said about the need to make sure the U S did not waltz in One of the most shameful examples of these instances occurred in Chile and was repeated throughout Latin America There, support for the liberation strug gles of the Chilean people led by the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile met with a disgusting silence from the opportunists They supported the fascist Pinochet as a bulwark against Soviet social imperialism! Part of that support included economic credits

This same treachery has been shown to the just cause of the Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization The cause of Palestine has been partially undercut by the silence of the Communist Party of China and its followers on the splashy negotiations of Sadat and Begin To call attention to the treachery of the Sadat proposals, to his willingness to negotiate away the right of self determination for the Pale stinian people would have exposed this



Through out the year, 1977, people in the U S were mobilized in support of a clear cut case of national oppression, demanding freedom for the Dawson 5 (above), and in support of self-determination for the Black Nation As a result, today the Dawson 5 are free, and a significant step forward has been taken towards liberation of the Black masses



1977 saw increased attacks against undocumented workers, as well as nation-wide conferences and protests against the chauvinist campaign mounted by the state

supposed leader of the "non aligned" and "third world"

As set forth in **Revolution Will Surely Triumph!**,

> "The theorists of the "three worlds" have totally distorted the analysis of the dual nature of the bourgeoisie in the dependent countries, and the conditions for uniting and struggling with them When the ruling cliques are compromising greatly with imperialism, the theorists of the "three worlds" call for unity with them, and have gone so far as to include them in the main forces of the revolution On the other hand these opportunists maintain that they support the revolutionary struggles of the people against the neo colonial governments Practically, one or the other strategy must give way" (p 22)

Clearly in Chile, and in the struggle of the PLO, the strategy is to support the neo colonial collaborators and thereby imperialism and liquidate support for the oppressed peoples

The collaboration in the Middle East fits into a scheme that sees Egypt with its relatively large population, join Iran and Israel as the military buffers for U S imperialism against the Soviet Union For its part, the U S S R is depending on an increasingly armed Ethiopia, along with its long standing client state of Iraq

Even in the areas where the U S presence had previously been subjected to worldwide condemnation by all forces that claimed to be progressive, the opportunists could not bring themselves to set the facts straight In Panama, the struggles of the Panamanian people for liberation of the Canal Zone necessitated new treaties In the face of this pressure, strongman General Torrijos negotiated a financial package with the U S that will undoubtedly benefit his coffers, but indisputably left the military control of the Canal firmly in the hands of the U S This tactical defeat of the Panamanian people was celebrated by the opportunists as a strategic victory

Here in the U S those both for and against the proposed treaties have used it to whip up national chauvinism Neither side, in any way acknowledged the rightful claim of the Panamanian people This is why an arch reactionary like John Wayne finds it completely consistent to lend a hand to "his" President and support the treaty, even when Ronald Reagan holds out against it

The multi national proletariat of the U S has a special concern and obligation for the liberation of those peoples who are within the present state boundaries or territories claimed by the U S bourgeoisie These struggles are not only important strategically, as are all the revolutionary alliances between the proletariat and the national liberation movements worldwide, but interpenetrate each other directly There were, for example, noteworthy developments in the U S during 1977 in the cause of the independence of the Puerto Rican people

In June, there was an uprising of the Puerto Rican community in the Humboldt section of Chicago The Chicago police attempted to turn the Puerto Rican National Day in Chicago into a day of fascist oppression of the Puerto Rican people A second event was the release of the very ill Figuerro Cordero Cordero had been imprisoned for 20 years for his part in an attack by Puerto Rican patriots on the U S Congress Speaking for a rising Puerto Rico,the unbeaten Cordero stated that Puerto Rico will only get its freedom by the bullet The just cause of the Puerto Rican people will undoubtedly continue to be taken up by an ever growing contingent that will avenge the deaths at Humboldt Park and the imprisonment and death of all fighter for Puerto Rican liberation

In a great struggle for self-determination, the cause of the oppressed Black Nation has already been taken up by its true leaders such as the imprisoned Gary Tyler Although continuing to suffer even greater repression at the hands of the state, Gary Tyler's voice has become a rallying call to the oppressed peoples of the Black Nation to fight for true liberation

An especially crucial victory exposing the nature of oppression of this brave Nation was that of the Dawson Five In towns of the rural South, and across the entire U S , rallies and demonstrations were held demanding the freedom of these five youths and self determination for the Nation

One very important aspect of these struggles in 1977 was that they were increasingly freed from the subversion of both the open reformists among Blacks and the various opportunists such as the CPUSA lawyers who attempted to isolate these struggles, like that of the Dawson Five, off from the revolutionary forces

In part, this exposure of the reformists and opportunists comes from Carter himself The traditional civil rights leaders who rallied to Carter's standard never had a program to really help, much less liberate, the Black Nation, or to assure democratic rights And to their dismay, they found out last year that the Carter administration is not even willing to come up with the traditional pay offs, much less attack the unemployment that was and remains at over 40% for Black youths

The struggles of the Chicano and Mexican people in the U S surged forward In response to Carter's attacks against undocumented workers, nationwide conferences and demonstrations attacked these fascist policies and demanded unconditional "amnesty ' Across the country, Latino students are in the vanguard in the struggle against the Bakke decision In Chilili, New Mexico, the Chicano peasantry fought against the reactionary violence of the state to defend their land This winter, undocumented workers and U S workers waged fierce struggles in the lemon groves and onion fields of Arizona Fighting growers along with the border patrol and sheriffs, they won wage increases and health and safety benefits

Small Farmers Strike Back

The crisis has also begun to put great pressure on the petty bourgeoisie This is especially true for the small farmers, who are caught between increasing industrial and energy prices and a decline in the price of farm products This led last year to the first farmers' strike since the Great Depression

Squabbles Among the U S Bourgeoisie

The questions, for the reformists, of course, are not how to assist the national minorities, or the working class, but how best to place the crisis on the backs of the oppressed peoples It is in this and only this that reformers differ from the open right wing of the bourgeoisie In times of deep crisis, these disagreements can become quite sharp, as in fact happened last year This struggle explains, for example, why the U S bourgeoisie has not been able to come up with an energy policy over four years after the recognition of its oil crisis In spite of its claims of being a new beginning, the Carter administration was beset with difficulties domestically in practically every way it turned

In another example, at the beginning of the year, Carter proposed to give everyone a tax rebate to stimulate personal spending and hold up the economy until a much hoped for investment boom started But the plan was immediately shot down, not because it was very big (in fact it was only $50 per single return) but because it symbolized the approach of getting prosperity through consumption, not by corporate investment One year later, the investment is still stagnant and the Carter administration is rallying the bourgeoisie around a somewhat bigger tax cut!

Rivalry and Collaboration in the Camp of Imperialism

It is inevitable in the epoch of imperialism that the struggle of the proletariat and the national liberation movements against imperialism takes place against a backdrop of rivalry and collaboration in that camp In 1977, both the contention and the collusion of the U S and the U S S R was significantly stepped up We have already seen how these forces collaborated with each other to suppress the liberation struggles To a great extent this collaboration was also at the expense of the second rank imperialist powers who fell further behind in their attempts to regain their former power

Superficially, one of the most marked aspects of 1977 is that the U S and U S S R did not clash heads in any area But their rivalry increased significantly, as evidenced in the greater arms expenditures, the development of new weapons systems, and the increased speculation by their press on the readiness for a third World War The U S introduced its neutron bomb, and pushed ahead with the cruise missile On its part, the U S S R pulled even with the U S in the quantity of missiles, greatly expanded its Navy and continued a rapid build up of conventional arms in Europe

UNITE! Photo

Protest against the police murder of Tyrone Neal in Chicago Around the country people organized to support such struggles as the D C Pressmen, Bennie Lenard in Chicago and tenants of the I Hotel in San Francisco

"If we look at the present period, since World War II, while the U S imperialists have suffered many defeats, there is nothing to indicate that U S imperialism is no longer aggressive, no longer capable of waging aggression" (CAC,p 19)

The U S bourgeoisie has greatly increased its NATO forces in the last several years Major weapons cost for its NATO forces have increased 60% in the last two years In the same period, the U S Army has expanded its number of active divisions from 13 to 16 Five of these divisions are permanently assigned to only two of the eight corps areas of NATO

Arrows project where the U S S R is likely to strike at Western Europe from the north U S has positioned itself, not to fend off the U S S R but launch its own aggressive attack from the south

Although the U S has greatly expanded its NATO defense, there can be no illusion that this has led to any significant increase in the defense of the people of the European countries

Most of the U S troops are in a mountainous and wooded border area in the south of Germany, not in the main line of U S S R attack across the northern German plain With the most modern equipment, including attack helicopters, these U S forces in the south are clearly the offensive part of the NATO posture The U S is currently developing plans for the procurement of about 3000 XM 1 tanks and associated infantry fighting vehicles

In the main areas of defense on the northern German plains the responsibilities fall on German, British, Belgian and Dutch troops Though a significant contingent of several hundreds of thousands, backed up by over a million in reserve, these troops are not as well outfitted as the attack troops of the Warsaw Pact nor the attack troops of the U S near the Czechoslovakian border in the south The result of the growing strength of the Soviet Union and the positioning of U S troops in NATO

is the vulnerability of the European bourgeoisie Up to a point this stren gthens the hand of the U S and makes these second rank imperialist powers more dependent on it

Dependency has also increased in the economic sphere While all of capitalism is in economic crisis, the U S fared better economically than most of the other imperialists in terms of inflation, unemployment and the growth of pro duction In Europe the mood of the bourgeoisie has turned increasingly to despair and pessimism as it recognizes that it cannot regain the profits it was enjoying in the late 1960's

In the same fashion, the U S S R has strengthened its own hold over the Eastern European countries Though not as great as in 1976, the Soviet Union continued to turn the screws on oil prices to these countries In fact, it told them that they are now on their own to obtain increases in oil supply This has led them to increase their ties with the West, but does not in any significant way free them from Soviet dominance Rather, in line with Soviet policies, the result has been to make the whole social imperialist bloc an aggressive debtor in its dealings with Western Europe This means that not only is Western Europe directly intimi dated by Soviet arms, but their invest ments in Eastern Europe are only as sured on Soviet terms

This pattern of contention and collu sion in 1977 was by no means restricted to Western Europe It operates on a world scale In Africa, Ambassador Andrew Young made it expressly clear that where the reach of the U S did not extend in Africa, the stability provi ded by Cuban troops working in the interests of the U S S R was an accept able substitute so long as it was a tempo rary one In 1977, the U S S R was ousted from both Sudan and Somalia This was not a victory for national liberation Where the influence of one superpower leaves off, the other begins Therefore each can hope to recoup losses, to collaborate with the other superpower, and jockey for position so long as certain vital positions are maintained While the superpowers po sition themselves for war, they colla borate at the expense of the worlds' people

In the rivalry among the imperialist powers, a number of key points stand out from the changes in 1977 and the conditions for the last several years First, there is absolutely no credence to be given to the view that the U S is on the strategic defensive, as put forth by the Communist Party of China The U S has aggressively built up its firepower, with major weapons such as the neutron bomb and the cruise mis sile While U S S R itself has made great strides in the area of strategic weapons such as missiles, its has at best pulled even with the U S in this area, and in quantity of payload, and still remains far behind in quality of firepower Against or compared with their own allies, both superpowers have gained relatively in the last years

Economically, the U S maintains a roughly two to one margin over the U S S R in its production capacity In the last year, though it remained with the rest of capitalism, including the U S S R in a severe crisis, it neverthe less gained compared to either the U S S R or its allies Its chief weakness as we have pointed out (See **Revolu tion Will Surely Triumph!**) is that it is becoming increasingly short of raw materials To overcome this shortage, the U S has redirected much of its aggression and expansion, wooing and collusion at the regions of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as evidenced by Carter's world travel

For the U S bourgeoisie, the period of regroupment, after its defeat in Viet nam, is largely over Time for these robbers is running short and they have started a new round of imperialist expan sion every bit as dangerous, every bit as ambitious and much better funded that that of the social imperialists of the U S S R

"So, comrades, in summing up this point, we are saying that while there is a danger of imper ialist war, and it is very great, and while there is a danger of fascism, neither are inevitable What is inevitable is the victory of the proletariat and revolution And that is why we have defended from the outset and will continue to defend the view that it is revo lution which is the main trend in the world, not modern revision ism, not counter-revolution, not bourgeois reaction" (CAC, p 17)

The Attack on the Socialist Countries

Since the great loss of the Soviet Union in the 1960's and the restoration of capitalism in that country, the forces of socialism had pushed forward and the forces of imperialism and reaction had for the most part fallen back This motion reached another high point in the victory of the Indo-Chinese peoples

During the last year, these successes have been subjected to sharp set backs

For the first time, two socialist coun tries, Kampuchea and Vietnam, engaged in armed conflict with each other This conflict clearly benefits no one but imperialism It is vitally important to the revolutionary struggles of all the worlds' peoples that the conflict be solved rapidly To do this all socialist states must join together to urge such a settlement and isolate the forces of imperialism and reaction that fully intend to exploit this conflict for their own uses

The CPUSA is coming out in support of the Vietnamese and attempting to blame Kampuchea The CP ML is in creasingly moving to a stance against the Vietnamese As recently seen at the UN, the U S has slandered the Vietnamese Ambassador to the UN at the very time when Vietnam has called upon the UN to help resolve this con flict Completely conciliating with the U S, a group of so called non aligned countries has "recognized the right of the U S to protect its security" (See Editorial, this issue of **UNITE!**) and expel the Vietnamese Ambassador

This opportunism is part and parcel of increasingly grave policies initiated by the Communist Party of China and its "three worlds" followers in the past year These forces were on the defensive on the theoretical front in the face of the attack by Marxism Leninism on the theory of the "three worlds" But at the same time the CPC moved offensively from first prais ing Tito as a leader of the non aligned countries to establishing full Party to Party relationships with the revisionist League of Communist of Yugoslavia

This recognition of Tito and the League of Communists reverses a long standing verdict of the whole Marxist Leninist movement and must be recog nized as a direct attack on the cause of revolution and socialism Drummed out of the Marxist Leninist ranks long ago for betraying the people of Yugoslavia to U S imperialism, Tito has now receiv

Eritrean Photo

The complete defeat of the Ethiopian aggressors is near in Eritrea Picture shows Cuban-trained, so called peoples' militia surrendering with Soviet arms to the EPLA in Keren

ed the blessing of the Party that once correctly fought for his banishment The treachery of this act is so notorious that it is sticking in the throat of even the most chauvinist followers of the CPC, such as the CP ML

Why did the CPC risk such a hazard ous decision? Clearly this pay-off to Tito can only be understood as part of a design with tremendously dangerous implications for the proletariat and its allies Internationally a chief part of this design is an alliance with the U S bourgeoisie As part of this design, the CPC greatly stepped up its wooing of the most reactionary hardliners of the U S bourgeoisie, such as the Committee on the Present Danger, former Defense secretaries Schlesinger and Laird, and former CIA Director Bush, as well as the major military figures of Western Europe

"Opportunists may do great damage for a short period of time but we know that in the long run we will triumph over them While disruption and failure is the logic of the opportunists and the bourgeoisie, we may fail temporarily, but in the long run we will succeed and they will fail The logic of Marxism-Leninism is one of success and victory" (CAC,p 12)

Revolution Will Surely Triumph!

This aggressive pushing of an out and out revisionist and collaborationist international line by a major socialist country in 1977 cannot help but contain gigantic consequences for the whole working class in the years to come

Despite these setbacks, there is a clear trend of the growth and develop ment of Marxism Leninism As we have already pointed out, this was certainly the case with many parties in Europe and Latin America It was definitely true for the Party of Labor of Albania

This year saw the leading role of socialist Albania come to the forefront of the international class struggle as Albania pointed the correct path for ward for socialist revolution and socialist construction The Party of Labor of Albania, led by Comrade Enver Hoxha, continued the work begun at the Seventh Party Congress one year earlier of cutting through the fog spread by opportunism By strongly condemning any conciliation with either the U S or U S S R, the betrayal of the Palestinian cause and the elevation of Tito, the PLA provided the worlds' people with a true under standing of the theory and practice of revolution

1977 was a year that revealed the increasing necessity of the imperialist camp to try to pressure, undermine and mislead the proletariat and oppressed nations and people of the world While continuing to resort to open repression, the hand of deceit was the major hand played by imperialism in 1977

Not since the late 1950's has imperial ism achieved the level of confusion and disruption in the socialist camp as re sulted last year The course that the CPC has set out internationally has greatly strengthened the hand of inter national reaction, and presents a grave danger to the world revolution

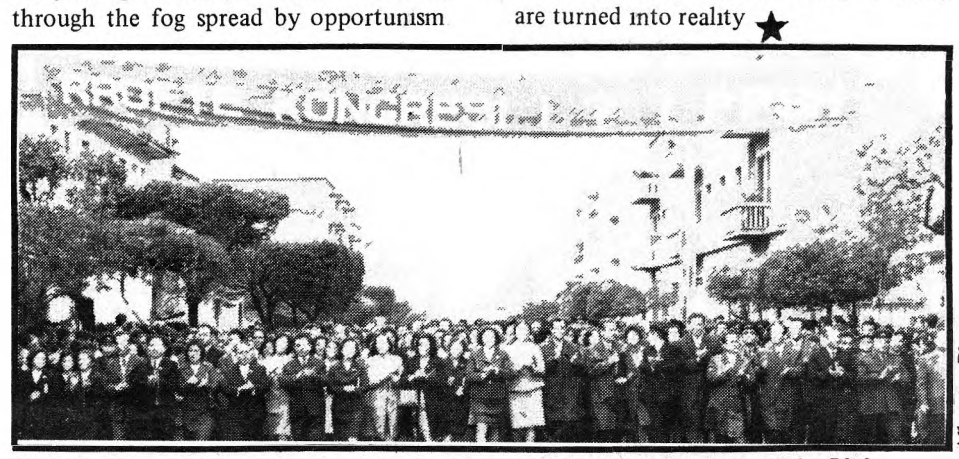
At the same time, efforts of the imperialists after the death of Comrade Mao Tsetung have met with resistance and defeat on many fronts Albania has surged forward in socialist contruc tion and made a monumental contribu tion to the world revolution by its resolute defense of Marxism Leninism and the dictatorship of the proletariat In countries such as Eritrea and Azania, the national liberation struggles and new democratic revolution have made great headway

Of great importance has been the rise, development and growing maturity of the genuine Marxist Leninist parties in countless countries, parties who have now rallied to their sides tens of thousands and even hundreds of thou sands in some countries

Many of the contradictions which sharpened in 1977 will intensify in 1978 While the development of the world revolution will continue, and advances will be made, the year of 1978 will also bring with it great dangers and concern must be directed towards developments in the Communist Party of China

An analysis of 1977 teaches us that the proletariat and its allies must not sit around waiting inevitably for a world war, but that revolution must be ad vanced in every country, non stop The class struggle is on the brink of great explosions

It is the task of the genuine Marxist Leninist organizations and parties to see to it that the socialist dreams and ambi tions of the people of every country are turned into reality ★



Albanian Photo

The Albanian people hold rally in support of the historic 7th Congress of the PLA